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**MCDOWELL COUNTY WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

***West Virginia Woman Involved Child Under Her Care in Child Pornography***

BECKLEY, W.Va. – Stacey Nichole Farmer, 33, of Squire, McDowell County, West Virginia was sentenced today to the maximum statutory term of 20 years in prison by United States District Judge Irene C. Berger for involving a minor under her care in child pornography. Farmer previously pleaded guilty in June 2010, admitting that from February through May 2009, at her home in McDowell County, she produced images of a minor under her care engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Farmer was also sentenced to life on supervised release and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$982.53 to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

United States Attorney Booth Goodwin stated, “Crimes that involve the sexual exploitation of children are sickening and will continue to be aggressively pursued by this office. It is shocking that there are individuals who would subject children under their care to unspeakable acts, thus stealing those children’s innocence and scarring them for life. My office and the Department of Justice as a whole, in conjunction with our Federal, State and Local partners will continue to work vigorously to fight crimes against children and we will use every available resource to catch and punish the individuals who engage in this type of conduct.”

The investigation was conducted by United States Homeland Security Investigations and the West Virginia State Police Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

“No crime touches us more deeply in the law enforcement community than the abuse of an innocent child by those he or she trusts the most” said John P. Kelleghan, Special Agent in Charge of United States Homeland Security Investigations Philadelphia Field Office. “While we cannot give back the innocence to the child who was exploited, we can make sure that the child is now safe and that justice is served.”

“Only through the marshalling of every state, local and federal resource at our disposal, were we able to rescue this child from a life of pain and abuse. The success of this investigation, and more importantly, the rescue of the child in this case is a perfect example of how collaboration among law enforcement through the ICAC Task Force Program is succeeding in rescuing children in our own neighborhoods” said Sergeant C.M. Casto, Deputy Director of the West Virginia State Police Crimes Against Children Unit.

In addition to producing images of child pornography, Farmer knowingly stored numerous images on a personal computer depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Farmer also distributed the explicit photos she produced to Charles Neyhart, 34, of Chugiak, Alaska using her computer.

In November 2010, Neyhart was sentenced to 30 years in prison for his role in the child pornography ring and for charges of child pornography production. Also, Richard Schweich, 40, of San Jose, Calif., was sentenced to 30 years in prison for his

participation in the conspiracy and for producing child pornography. Each defendant also was sentenced to lifetime supervised release following their respective prison terms.

Neyhart pleaded guilty on April 7, 2010, to one count of conspiracy to advertise child pornography, one count of conspiracy to distribute child pornography, 13 counts of advertising child pornography and two counts of distributing child pornography. Neyhart also pleaded guilty to a criminal information charging him with three counts of producing child pornography between February and June 2009. According to the criminal information filed in the District of Alaska, Neyhart produced sexually explicit photographs of a 10 year-old girl in West Virginia and transported the photographs to his home in Alaska.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about cases and related activities please visit [www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs) and [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

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